

9. What if my child didn't get the required shots when needed, or has gotten behind schedule?

If you have children who did not begin their immunizations by two months old, or who have had only some of their shots, they can still be fully immunized. It is never too late to start getting these shots. Children who have received some of their shots and then gotten behind schedule do not have to start over. The shots they've already had will count. Just continue the schedule where they left off. If you have children who were not immunized when they were infants, contact your doctor or health department clinic. They will tell you when to bring the children in for their shots.

10. What if my child is ill when it's time for the shots?

If your child has a mild illness with or without a low fever, he or she may still get shots.

Please refer to your benefits materials for specific coverage information. Or call Member Services at the toll-free number on your CIGNA HealthCare ID Card.

Want more information? Your doctor should be able to answer your specific questions. Another excellent resource is the National Immunization Information Hotline at 1.800.232.2522.

Para informacion en español llame 1.800.232.0233.

Reference/courtesy: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Immunization Program

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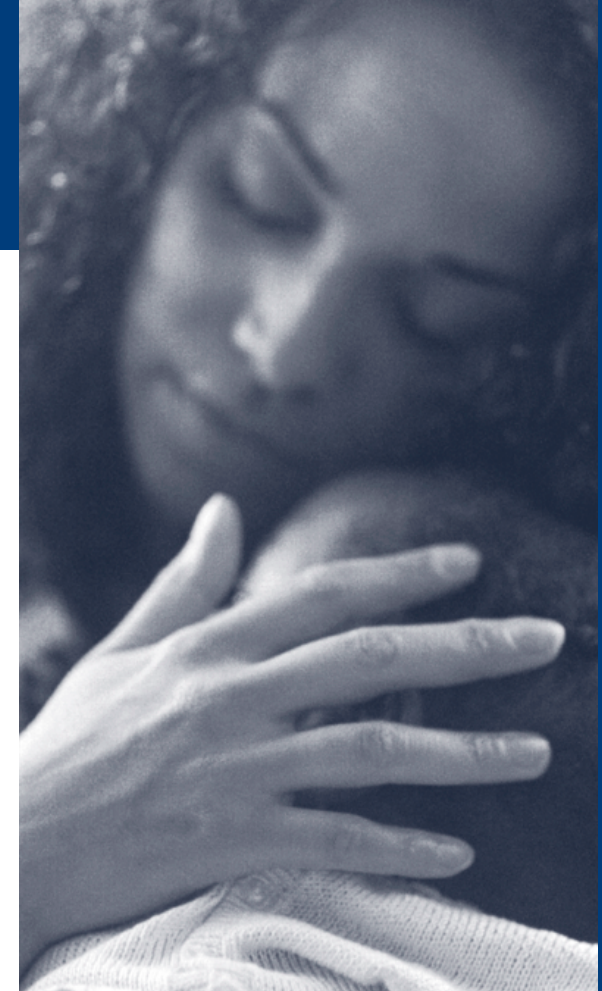
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10 Things Every Parent Needs to Know about Immunizations



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1. Why should my child be immunized?

Children need immunizations (shots) to protect them from dangerous childhood diseases. These diseases can have serious complications and can even kill children.

2. What diseases do immunizations prevent?

Measles, Mumps, Polio, Rubella (German Measles), Pertussis (whooping cough), Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenzae type B (Hib), Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Varicella (Chickenpox).

3. How many shots does my child need?

The following immunizations can be started at one month and ***should be completed by the time your child turns two.*** They can be given in five visits to a doctor or clinic. Remember, each of these visits is important! Your child needs several doses of each immunization to be completely protected.

NO. OF SHOTS	TYPE OF IMMUNIZATION
1	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
4	Hib (a major cause of spinal meningitis)
3	Polio
4	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Acellular Pertussis (DTaP)
2	Hepatitis A
3	Hepatitis B
1	Varicella (Chickenpox)
4	Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV7)
1	Influenza

4. What will happen if my child doesn't get these shots?

Prevention is the key. There are no specific antibiotics to treat most of these diseases, so immunizations are very important. Your child may never get one of these diseases, BUT MOST CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO THESE DISEASES. Most of these diseases spread easily from person to person. If children have not had their shots, and they are around someone who has Measles, Whooping Cough or one of the other childhood diseases, they will probably get sick, too.

5. Are the immunizations safe?

Yes, very safe. But like any medicine, they can sometimes cause reactions. Usually these are mild, like a sore arm or a slight fever. More serious reactions are extremely rare, but do happen. Your doctor or nurse will talk to you about reactions before giving your child the shots. The important thing to remember is that children face far greater danger from diseases when they are not immunized than they do from a reaction to shots.

6. What do I do if my child has a serious reaction?

If you think your child is having a severe reaction that does not go away, call your doctor or take the child to the doctor right away. Write down what happened and the date and time it happened. Ask your doctor, nurse or health department to file a Vaccine Adverse Event Report form or call 1.800.338.2382 to

report the situation to the National Vaccine Injury Program of the U.S. Department of Health.

7. Why can't I wait until my child starts school to have him or her immunized?

Immunizations can be given at birth, and most are completed by the time a child turns two. By having your child immunized on time (by two years old), you can protect your child from being infected and also prevent the infection of others at school or at day care centers. Children under five are especially likely to get a disease, because they are less able to fight infections.

8. Why is an immunization health record important?

An immunization health record helps you and your health care provider keep your child on schedule. A record should be started at birth, when your child should receive the first immunization, and updated each time your child receives a scheduled immunization. This information will help you if you move to a new area or change health care providers, or when your child is enrolled in day care or starts school. Remember to bring this record with you every time your child has a health care visit.